

Tips for effective goTenna Mesh deployment to a disaster zone *(last updated: Sept. 28, 2017)*

Before reaching the disaster zone

1. Download & install the goTenna app on all iOS/Android smartphones that will be used during your deployment. If you do not have access to every smartphone that will be deployed, we recommend that you download the goTenna app for Android devices from [here](#) and sideload it onto the Android phones that will be deployed. ([Click here](#) for instructions on how to sideload apk files to your Android phone.)
2. Ideally, set up the goTenna app on all smartphones that you intend to deploy. Open the app and follow onboarding instructions within the app.
3. During setup, you have the option of using your phone number (you'll be asked to double-authenticate it via a text message) or a randomly assigned number as your goTenna ID (GID). Others will use this GID to contact you. **Remember that phone number GIDs always start with a country code e.g. "1". The sender should have your contact saved as '1-your phone number' to reach you.**
4. After finishing setup, download offline maps for the regions you are deploying to. From the Side Menu, click on Location, say 'Yes' to the prompt that asks 'Would you like to download a map' and select your region.
5. Verify received goTenna Mesh units are 100% functional by pairing them to your smartphone. To unpair and re-pair your phone to a new goTenna Mesh device: Side Menu > Settings > Unpair goTenna and follow instructions in the app. (To pair follow same process except tap Pair goTenna.)
5. Charge all your goTenna Mesh devices using the included micro USB charging cable. (To verify full charge, pair goTenna Mesh to a smartphone & check battery level from the app's Side Menu. See #4 above for instructions on how to pair.)

During deployment

1. Note: Each goTenna Mesh device lasts ~24 hour per charge but battery life varies based on use. Charge goTenna Mesh devices before each use and/or leave them connected to solar charger or other power source.
2. Pro tip: Use shout chat to easily share contact information. Everyone in direct range with you will get shout messages. You can press and hold the shout message to save the sender's info to your contacts.
3. Range performance depends on your terrain. In congested areas such as cities, inside a dense forest etc., expect upto 0.5 miles point-to-point range. In more open terrain such as an open lake, near a beach, top of a hill to another hill etc., expect up to 4 miles point-to-point range.

4. Range can also change drastically based on where you are. If you are unable to get a message through, try again from a slightly different location.
5. To increase range, you can deploy goTenna Mesh Relay Nodes at strategic locations. These relay nodes, **do not need** smartphones. All powered ON goTenna Mesh devices automatically relay messages to your intended recipient.
6. To deploy a Relay Node, you have to first ensure that it has a unique goTenna ID. All NEW goTenna Mesh units, that have never been paired to a smartphone, can be used as relays out of the box. **To use paired or previously-paired goTenna Mesh units as relays, follow these steps:**
 - a. Turn ON the device.
 - b. Pair the device to your phone. From the goTenna app Side Menu, click on Settings -> Unpair/Pair goTenna and follow instructions.
 - c. After pairing the device, within Settings, click on Profile->GID-> Generate New random GID
 - d. From Settings, click on unpair goTenna and follow instructions.
 - e. To pair your phone to another goTenna Mesh unit for normal use or to revert a relay node goTenna Mesh back to normal use, follow steps f & g.
 - f. Turn ON the goTenna Mesh unit and tap Pair goTenna within Settings in the Side Menu
 - g. Go back to Settings and tap on GID; enter your phone number and complete verification OR select "Use randomly generated GID" and share that number with goTenna contacts